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STENEHJEM UNVEILS NEW STATE SEX OFFENDER WEBSITE

www.sexoffender.nd.gov

BISMARCK –Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem today unveiled the state's new and improved sex offender website: www.sexoffender.nd.gov. "This easy to use website has many new features that parents can use to help keep their families safe," said Stenehjem.

One such feature is the ability to map the whereabouts of offenders living within a specified distance from a particular address. Using the "Offenders Near Me" link on the "search high risk and lifetime offenders page," parents can enter their home address – or their kids' daycare, favorite park, or grandparents' house – as the starting point. The results page shows the offenders' details, with a link to "map" the results. The search map shows the starting address as a blue "pushpin," with yellow and green pushpins showing the location of offenders and incarcerated offenders, respectively. Each offender's pushpin also links to his detail page, which has a current address, details of the offenses, risk level and a photograph, among other information. And, unlike private websites which simply grab a "snapshot" of the state's webpages as they were on the day the company last updated its information – the state's information is updated in real time.

"Since its launch, the sex offender website has provided instant access to vital information about the offenders who pose the greatest risk to the community," said Stenehjem. "Today, it also gives parents the ability to check the places their kids hang out to make sure they stay safe."

Even the basic search feature, which was part of the original sex offender website, has undergone improvements, including expanding information about individual offenders, a "map it" link for the offender's address, contact number for the offender's probation officer, and the risk level for lifetime offenders. While delinquent offenders cannot be mapped because their current whereabouts are unknown, all other details known before the offender absconded are shown on the Delinquent Offenders page. Another convenience is the ability to print a list of all registered sex offenders living within a city or county. The website provides detailed information and photographs for high risk and lifetime offenders, while the printed list shows address and basic information for all registered offenders, including low and moderate risk offenders.

Stenehjem launched the original sex offender website in November 2001 to provide up to date information to the public about the state's most dangerous sex offenders. The sex offender website has received more than 915,000 visitors since it was launched.

To stay current with technology, last fall Stenehjem introduced new web based services on the sex offender site, including an e-mail notification system which sends an e-mail

when sex offenders move in, out, or around a city or county selected by the citizen. That e-mail notice also has seen some improvements, with the inclusion of a link to view an offender's detail page. One additional convenience of the new website is that the various separate components – printable lists, e-mail notification, delinquent offenders, and links to other states' websites – are now accessible from within the sex offender website.

Today's launch of the new sex offender web site completes the website development project Stenehjem kicked off last fall.